



SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Project

2006 SR 520 Bridge Closure Event Highlights a Future SR 520 Bridge

During the annual maintenance closure of the Evergreen Point Bridge, the SR 520 Project team took the opportunity to show a group of elected officials, agency leads, reporters and photographers, some members of the public, and even a group of high school students the ins and outs of the SR 520 floating bridge. About 45 people joined the SR 520 Project team on the tour.

During the tour, project engineers and bridge maintenance staff presented information on vulnerability, traffic, and environmental effects, highlighting how the future replacement bridge will differ in these areas. Tour attendees were able to ask questions of the project team members who specialize in each of these areas. Bridge tour participants were also given the opportunity to climb down into the pontoons to see firsthand the previous retrofitting that was done to strengthen the structure.

Throughout the weekend, bridge crews carried on their inspection and maintenance work to check for any problems and to ensure the bridge continues to operate safely. The inspection results were released on June 21st and revealed no new significant structural or mechanical issues, however it emphasized that the bridge continues to be vulnerable to windstorms and earthquakes and is coming close to the end of its useful lifespan.

The weekend's events were captured by local news media, both in print and on TV, with over 100 different news clips in all. The week following the bridge closure, the project's Executive Committee met to discuss the upcoming release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and an Expert Review Panel, commissioned by Governor Gregoire, convened to study the SR 520 Bridge and the Alaskan Way Viaduct projects. The release of the Draft EIS is scheduled for August and the identification of a preferred alternative will follow by the end of this year.



SR 520 mid-span during 2006 annual bridge closure.



SR 520 Project Director, John Milton, speaks with bridge tour participant.



Bridge tour attendees are welcomed by WSDOT staff.